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1991/11/13

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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
TAGS: PRR, PIR, PCOM, CI  
SUBJECT: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON PRC MINISTER  
OF JUSTICE CAI CHENG

1. (C) SUMMARY:

THIS CABLE PROVIDES:

- BIOGRAPHIC BACKGROUND ON PRC JUSTICE MINISTER CAI CHENG;

- ONE UNCLASSIFIED INR/0 BIOGRAPHY OF PRC MINISTER OF JUSTICE CAI CHENG, DATED SEPTEMBER 1988. (POST DOES NOT HAVE ANY CLASSIFIED BIO OF CAI);

- A PRC GOVERNMENT-PRODUCED BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO THE WORK OF THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE, WHICH HAS RESPONSIBILITY FOR CHINA'S PRISON AND REEDUCATION SYSTEM, AS WELL AS LEGAL EDUCATION AND THE WORK OF LAWYERS.

END SUMMARY.  
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2. (U) UNCLASSIFIED INR/0 BIOGRAPHY OF CAI CHENG, PRC MINISTER OF JUSTICE, DATED 22 SEPTEMBER 1988:

CAI CHENG (PHONETIC SYE) (SG: 5531/6134). MINISTER OF JUSTICE SINCE APRIL 1988.

EXPERIENCED IN JUDICIAL AND PUBLIC SECURITY WORK, CAI CHENG HAD SERVED AS A VICE MINISTER FOR THREE YEARS BEFORE HIS PROMOTION TO MINISTER. HE HAS PUBLICLY

STATED THAT CHINA MUST IMPROVE ITS LEGAL SYSTEM AND INVESTMENT CONDITIONS IN ORDER TO DEVELOP AN EXPORT-ORIENTED INDUSTRY IN THE COASTAL AREAS. HE SUPPORTS RECENTLY ENACTED LAWS AND REGULATIONS THAT ENCOURAGE FOREIGN INVESTMENT AND HAS CALLED FOR AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF LAWYERS AND LEGAL ADVISERS FOR OVERSEAS INVESTORS. CAI FAVORS COOPERATIVE LAW OFFICES THAT WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR OWN PROFITS AND LOSSES, CLAIMING THAT THEY WOULD IMPROVE WORK EFFICIENCY, STIMULATE INITIATIVE, AND CREATE BETTER CONDITIONS FOR COMPETENT LAWYERS TO USE THEIR KNOWLEDGE. HE HAS STATED THAT PRIVATE LAW FIRMS WILL EVENTUALLY BE ALLOWED. CAI IS ALSO ENCOURAGING THE USE OF FOREIGN TEXTBOOKS, ESPECIALLY THOSE DEALING WITH INTERNATIONAL LAW.

CAI WAS BORN IN NOVEMBER 1927. HE HAS ATTENDED YANAN UNIVERSITY. DURING 1965-67 HE WAS DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE GUANGDONG PROVINCIAL PUBLIC SECURITY BUREAU. IN 1980 HE BECAME PRESIDENT OF THE CHINESE PEOPLE'S UNIVERSITY OF PUBLIC SECURITY AND WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN RAISING THE EDUCATIONAL LEVEL OF THE POLICE FORCE BY REQUIRING ADDITIONAL TRAINING FOR CURRENT OFFICERS AND BY IMPLEMENTING HIGHER RECRUITMENT STANDARDS FOR NEW OFFICERS, ACCORDING TO THE CHINESE PRESS. CAI WAS ELECTED A MEMBER OF THE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY CENTRAL

COMMITTEE IN NOVEMBER 1987 AND IS A MEMBER OF THE TOP POLITICAL AND LEGAL LEADING GROUP. HE IS PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LEGAL REPORTERS. HE HAS AT LEAST ONE CHILD, A DAUGHTER.

#### BACKGROUND ON THE MINISTRY

5. (U) BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE, FROM THE 1989/90 EDITION OF "THE DIRECTORY OF CHINESE GOVERNMENT ORGANS" COMPILED, EDITED AND

TRANSLATED BY NEW CHINA NEWS LTD., A PRC-GOVERNMENT SPONSORED ORGANIZATION, AFFILIATED WITH THE NEW CHINA NEWS AGENCY (XINHUA):

#### MAIN FUNCTIONS:

1. GUIDES LAW EDUCATION AT UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AND LAW AFFILIATED TO THE MINISTRY AND INSERVICE TRAINING OF SENIOR OFFICIALS IN THE FIELD.
2. GIVES GUIDANCE TO NATIONAL ADMINISTRATION OF PRISON AFFAIRS AND DIRECTS EFFORTS TO REFORM AND REEDUCATE CRIMINALS THROUGH LABOR.

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2. TAKES CHARGE OF EFFORTS TO SPREAD THE KNOWLEDGE OF LAW AND GUIDES THE WORK ON THE MEDIATION OF DISPUTES AMONG THE PEOPLE, THE WORK OF JUDICIAL ASSISTANTS AND RURAL LEGAL SERVICES.

4. ADMINISTERS THE NATIONWIDE WORK OF LAWYERS AND NOTARIES.

5. ORGANIZES PARTICIPATION IN MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS ON CRIME PREVENTION, AND HANDLES FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE DEPARTMENTS AND INSTITUTIONS DIRECTLY UNDER THE MINISTRY.

6. TAKES PART IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH OVERSEAS COUNTERPARTS ON JUDICIAL AGREEMENTS AND ORGANIZES THEIR IMPLEMENTATION.

7. TAKES PART IN LEGISLATIVE WORK AND IS RESPONSIBLE FOR DRAFTING, REVISING, SORTING OUT AND COMPILING LAWS AND REGULATIONS ON ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

8. RUNS THE "LEGAL SYSTEM DAILY" AND THE PUBLISHING HOUSE OF LAW.

9. ADMINISTERS THE INSTITUTE OF JUSTICE, THE INSTITUTE OF CRIME PREVENTION AND REFORM THROUGH LABOR AND THE

INSTITUTE OF JUDICIAL IDENTIFICATION SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.

10. DIRECTS THEORETICAL STUDIES ON THE SCIENCE OF LAW AND THE WORK OF LOCAL JUDICIAL DEPARTMENTS.

11. ASSISTS PEOPLE'S GOVERNMENTS AT THE PROVINCIAL, AUTONOMOUS REGIONAL AND MUNICIPAL LEVEL TO SUPERVISE AND ASSESS THE SERVICES OF SENIOR OFFICIALS OF THE JUDICIAL DEPARTMENTS/BUREAUS.

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NOTE: NOT PASSED TO ABOVE ADDRESSEE (S)

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